

<b>Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct</b>					
Report by:	Councillor Hogg				
Political Group:	Green Party				
No. of members:	2	No. trained on Code:			100 %
For the period:	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 – 1 April 2024				
<b>Number, Source and Level of Complaints</b>					
	Informal	Local Resolution (Stage)			PSOW
		1	2	3	
Public	0				
Officers	0				
Councillors	0				
<b>Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)</b>					
<p>This year we have continued to have regular weekly, informal group chats, which is easy considering we are a small group of 2 members.</p> <p>We are all up to date with our Code of Conduct training.</p> <p>We are both signed up for Equalities and Diversity Training which is soon to be delivered.</p> <p>I can feed back any information brought to the Group Leaders meetings around conduct during our meetings. For example, recent feedback from the MO around the amount of heckling at full council was discussed and taken on board. Although full council is tame compared to a House of Commons debate, we shared the view that heckling and back chat does not look professional. It was noted that high profile agenda items, such as the budget, will prompt political comments that will be met with disdain amongst</p>					

members and with no time for everyone to voice discontent at every comment made, it is inevitable that some heckling and back chat will occur during heated debate. As a group, we will strive to keep this to a minimum to keep standards as high as possible.

We discuss working relationships with officers and are happy that we both hold respect for officers and, hopefully, gain the respect from officers in the way that we seek out information and support on issues. We have no issues regarding working with officers but would welcome any feedback that would help us improve relations if necessary.

As a group leader, I continue to learn from other more experienced group leaders from the larger groups and take an interest, and discuss where appropriate, their actions to address standards issues.

I've learned, through a particular experience during full council, what it means to "speak through the chair". This seemingly obvious rule of committee meeting etiquette was a lesson best learned through experience, in my opinion, and I will take that knowledge forward with me to future committee meetings. This was again discussed at our group meetings when we raised it as a standards issue.

We have raised issues regarding conduct that we felt important through the Group Leaders meetings, such as one member's inaccurate citing of newspaper articles in full council without any proper reference to the source of information. It was not deemed necessary to take any action to prevent this type of action in council meetings and it would be up to members to decide whether any information brought up in council that no one else had prior foresight of, should influence their decisions or not. We were happy that we could raise issues of concern and discuss them with other group leaders and will continue to use this forum as a sounding board for issues and a source of advice on any further action.

